

Cesa News

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Information about the scientific activities of the Cesa in Africa



by Muhabbet Kemal Koçak

A Short Note on the Studies of the Lepidoptera on the Soutpansberg Mountains (Limpopo, South Africa)

In northern South Africa, the authors visited privately the Soutpansberg Mountains, especially Medike Mountain Reserve Station four times between the years of 2003 and 2004. This was their first attempts for observing, photographing and taking video records of the behaviours of the South African butterflies and moths in their natural environments. In order to contribute for determining the Lepidoptera fauna of the Soutpansberg Mountains, a remarkable collection of the whole Lepidopteran groups was made. The preparation of the specimens for scientific publications has been continuing. As the first results, the articles with the numbers 26, and 37 in the list below, were published in the Cesa serials. Earlier articles on African Lepidoptera were based upon the Koçak's expeditions to Ethiopia (no. 27, 28, 32, 34). Determination of the specimens of the Ethiopian collection has been continuing. Other publications, listed at the end of this issue, are the temporary results of the enormous Cesa Project entitled "*Lepidoptera of Africa (LAF)*"¹, and of the nomenclatural studies. Further results will issue in the Cesa publications at irregular intervals.

¹ <http://www.cesa-tr.org/Cesaprojects.htm>



Fig.1 – The author, Muhabbet Kemal during her observation at Medike western Soutpansberg Mountains, 21 September 2004 (Cesa)



Fig.2 – The author, Muhabbet Kemal during her observation at Medike western Soutpansberg Mountains, 3 April 2004 (Cesa)



Fig. 3- An accompanist, African Grasshopper, Medike 24 March 2004 (Cesa)



Fig.4 –Sand River in the direction of north, crossing the Soutpansberg Mountains near Medike, 21 September 2004 (Cesa)



Fig. 5 - Muhabbet Kemal together with our dear friend Marietjie Underhay (on the right), during an observation tour around Medike, 18 September 2004 (Cesa)



Fig. 6 - Muhabbet Kemal together with our dear friend Prof. Dr. Ian Gaigher at Lajuma Highland, Soutpansberg Mountains, 22 January 2003 (Cesa)



Fig. 7 - Muhabbet Kemal together with our dear friend Mr. P.F. le Roux and his partners, at Cycad Forest, eastern Soutpansberg Mountains, 31 January 2003 (Cesa)



Fig. 8 – Authors together with our dear friend Willie Botha during a discuss of the Lepidoptera studies. Louis Trichardt, 26 January 2003 (Cesa)



Fig. 9 – Authors together with our dear friends Hannes and Marietjie Underhay, at Medike, 3 February, 2003 (Cesa)

24 Januarie 2003

ZOUTPANSBERGER

Turkish entomologists study local butterflies

LOUIS TRICHARDT – Butterflies are a good indicator of the condition of the environment and when studying these insects it seems that the Soutpansberg has natural resources in abundance.

This is according to two entomologists from Turkey who are on a three-week visit to research the butterflies and moths of the Soutpansberg.

and motifs of the Soutpansberg.

Prof Dr Ahmed Omer Koçak and his spouse Dr Muhabbet Kemal Koçak from the Yüzüncü Yıl University in Van, a city in East Turkey discovered the Soutpansberg when searching the Internet for accommodation in South Africa. They are both from the Biology Department of the Faculty of Science and Literature of their University.

"We initially intended to take a holi-

day in South Africa and the fast, positive and friendly replies that we got from the Underhay family at Medike determined our destination. Other visitors at the Dzhiawolala Cottage where we stay asked me why I chose the

"we stay asked me why I chose the Soutpansberg. My reply was that for me Soutpansberg is South Africa," says Prof Koçak.

Their interest in *lepidoptera* (butterflies and moths) soon shaped their proposed holiday into a research experience. Before he even left Turkey, Prof Koçak prepared a web page with a list of 37 butterfly species of the Soutpansberg that he compiled from

Southernberg that he compiled from scientific literature.

"We are happy to contribute to the fauna and flora of this wonderful corner of South Africa. Though the time for research is limited, we try to make an introduction to the butterfly fauna of Soutpansberg and to compile a list with photos of the species that we observed."

The Koçaks arrived in Louis Trichardt on January 14 in the midst of a heat wave of 36°C, after having left their country in a freezing -25°C. Within the first few days in the Soutpansberg the Koçaks observed as many as forty *lepidoptera* species. They found one butterfly that was common to both the Soutpansberg and Turkey.

"The butterflies in Africa are very strong flyers, which are not easily found and seen nor photographed. The size of their wings and coloration are magnificent." He explained that butterflies are very sensitive creatures and good indicators of disturbances in the environment.

"If the diversity of butterflies is high, it indicates that pollution is low and that the environment is in a good condition." He added that as opposed to that of Turkey, he found the natural environment of the Soutpansberg to be in a favourable condition.

Two butterfly species living as endemic (*widespread*) in the Soutpansberg are the *Dira swanepoeli* of Hanglip Forest and the *Papilio ophidiocephalus entabeni* of the Entabeni Forest."

The Koçaks liaise with Prof Gaigher of Lejuma who has prepared an informative text on the Soutpansberg Conservancy. The Conservancy requires a full list of fauna and flora in which the Koçaks will gladly assist. The itinerary of the Koçaks will include Lejuma, Schoemansdal Environmental Centre, Hanglip and the mountain area. The final remark of the Turkish couple was: "We appreciate the hospitality of the people here, and *Tuoi Trichardt* is a lovely city!"



Two entomologists from Turkey are on a three-week visit to research the butterflies and moths of the Soutpansberg. Prof Dr Ahmet Ömer Koçak (right) and his spouse Dr Muhabbet Kemal Koçak (middle) stand with their hostess, Mrs Marietjie Underhay from Medike.

Fig.10- An interview about the authors in the regional Newspaper at Louis Trichardt, South Africa, 24 January 2003 (Cesa)



Fig.11- Studying in the nights at Medike, South Africa, 16 April, 2004 (Cesa)

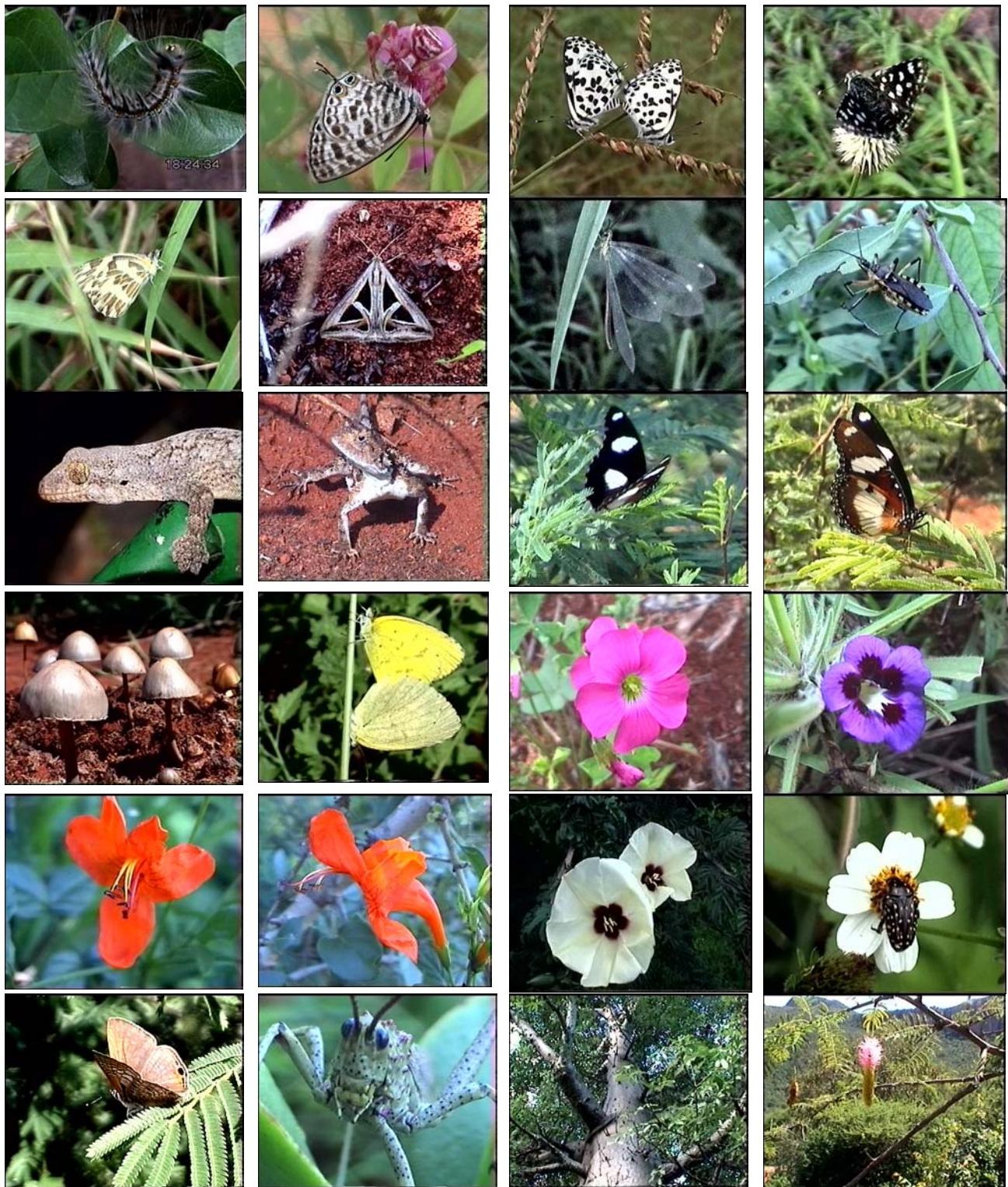


Fig.12- Observing butterflies by days at Medike, South Africa, 17 January, 2003 (Cesa)

Miscellaneous Images on the Biodiversity of Soutpansberg Mountains (figs.13-36)



Miscellaneous Images on the Biodiversity of Soutpansberg Mountains (figs.37-60)



List of the 45 Publications on the Lepidoptera of Africa

1. Koçak,A.Ö., 2007, Project of the Cesa: Lepidoptera of Africa (LAF).http://www.metafro.be/Members/Cesa/project.2007-07-18.3820575445/base_view
2. Koçak,A.Ö., 2007, Project of the Cesa: Catalogue of South African Lepidoptera (LZA)http://www.metafro.be/Members/Cesa/project.2007-07-16.3668615978/base_view
3. Koçak,A.Ö., 2007, Articles on the African Lepidoptera (Insecta) published in the Serial Publication of the Cesa Miscellaneous Papers between the years of 1996-2007http://www.metafro.be/Members/Cesa/internet_sayfas304/base_view
4. Kemal,M. & A.Ö.Koçak, 2007, South African Noctuidae species in the Fauna of Turkey (Lepidoptera) [42 species listed]
http://www.metafro.be/Members/Cesa/internet_sayfas305/base_view
5. Kemal,M. & A.Ö.Koçak, 2007, Synonymous Checklist of the South African Lepidoptera [totally 7527 species listed]
http://www.metafro.be/Members/Cesa/Cesapublafr12.pdf/base_view
6. Koçak,A.Ö. & M.Kemal, 2007, Report on the Temporary Results of the Faunal Lists of Africa States based upon the Databank of the Cesa. I- Democratic Republic of Congo (Zaire) stand 18.7.2007 [totally 2683 sp. & ssp. listed]
http://www.metafro.be/Members/Cesa/Cesapublafr13.pdf/base_view
7. Koçak,A.Ö. & M.Kemal, 2007, Report on the Temporary Results of the Faunal Lists of African States based upon the Databank of the Cesa. 2. Rwanda stand 18.7.2007 [totally 359 sp. & ssp. listed]
http://www.metafro.be/Members/Cesa/Cesapublafr14.pdf/base_view
8. Koçak,A.Ö. & M.Kemal, 2007, Report on the Temporary Results of the Faunal Lists of African States based upon the Databank of the Cesa. 3. Nigeria stand 18.7.2007 [totally 1341 sp. & ssp. listed]
http://www.metafro.be/Members/Cesa/Cesapublafr15.pdf/base_view
9. Koçak,A.Ö. & M.Kemal, 2007, Report on the Temporary Results of the Faunal Lists of African States based upon the Databank of the Cesa. 4.Cameroon stand 18.7.2007 [totally 1791 sp. & ssp. listed]
http://www.metafro.be/Members/Cesa/Cesapublafr16.pdf/base_view
10. Koçak,A.Ö. & M.Kemal, 2007, Report on the Temporary Results of the Faunal Lists of African States based upon the Databank of the Cesa. 5. Tanzania stand 19.7.2007 [totally 1945 sp. & ssp. listed]
http://www.metafro.be/Members/Cesa/Cesapublafr17.pdf/base_view
11. Koçak,A.Ö. & M.Kemal, 2007, Report on the Temporary Results of the Faunal Lists of African States based upon the Databank of the Cesa. 6. Uganda stand 19.7.2007 [totally 1891 sp. & ssp. listed]
http://www.metafro.be/Members/Cesa/Cesapublafr18.pdf/base_view
12. Koçak,A.Ö. & M.Kemal, 2007, Report on the Temporary Results of the Faunal Lists of African States based upon the Databank of the Cesa. 7. Zimbabwe stand 19.7.2007 [totally 1386 sp. & ssp. listed]
http://www.metafro.be/Members/Cesa/Cesapublafr19.pdf/base_view
13. Koçak,A.Ö. & M.Kemal, 2007, Report on the Temporary Results of the Faunal Lists of African States based upon the Databank of the Cesa. 8. Malawi stand 19.7.2007 [totally 900 sp. & ssp. listed]
http://www.metafro.be/Members/Cesa/Cesapublafr10.pdf/base_view
14. Koçak,A.Ö. & M.Kemal, 2007, Report on the Temporary Results of the Faunal Lists of African States based upon the Databank of the Cesa. 9. Algeria stand 19.7.2007 [totally 1482 sp. & ssp. listed]
http://www.metafro.be/Members/Cesa/Cesapublafr11.pdf/base_view

15. Koçak,A.Ö. & M.Kemal, 2007, Report on the Temporary Results of the Faunal Lists of African States based upon the Databank of the Cesa. 10. Ethiopia stand 19.7.2007 [totally 940 sp. & ssp. listed]
http://www.metafro.be/Members/Cesa/Cesapublafr12.pdf/base_view
16. Koçak,A.Ö. & M.Kemal, 2007, Report on the Temporary Results of the Faunal Lists of African States based upon the Databank of the Cesa. 11. Kenia and Somalia stand 19.7.2007 [totally 2032 and 326 sp. & ssp. listed]
http://www.metafro.be/Members/Cesa/Cesapublafr13.pdf/base_view
17. Koçak,A.Ö. & M.Kemal, 2007, Report on the Temporary Results of the Faunal Lists of African States based upon the Databank of the Cesa. 12. Sudan stand 19.7.2007 [totally 764 sp. & ssp. listed]
http://www.metafro.be/Members/Cesa/Cesapublafr14.pdf/base_view
18. Koçak,A.Ö. & M.Kemal, 2007, Report on the Temporary Results of the Faunal Lists of African States based upon the Databank of the Cesa. 13. Angola stand 19.7.2007 [totally 919 sp. & ssp. listed]
http://www.metafro.be/Members/Cesa/Cesapublafr15.pdf/base_view
19. Koçak,A.Ö. & M.Kemal, 2007, Synonymous List of the Lepidoptera recorded in Soutpansberg Mountains (Northern South Africa) [totally 561 sp. listed] http://www.metafro.be/Members/Cesa/Cesapublafr16.pdf/base_view
20. Koçak,A.Ö. & M.Kemal, 2007, Report on the Temporary Results of the Faunal Lists of African States based upon the Databank of the Cesa. 14. Mozambique stand 22.7.2007 [totally 853 sp. & ssp. listed]
http://www.metafro.be/Members/Cesa/Cesapublafr17.pdf/base_view
21. Koçak,A.Ö. & M.Kemal, 2007, Report on the Temporary Results of the Faunal Lists of African States based upon the Databank of the Cesa. 15. Madagascar stand 22.7.2007 [totally 1153 sp. & ssp. listed]
http://www.metafro.be/Members/Cesa/Cesapublafr18.pdf/base_view
22. Koçak,A.Ö. & M.Kemal, 2007, Report on the Temporary Results of the Faunal Lists of African States based upon the Databank of the Cesa. 16. Tunis stand 22.7.2007 [totally 932 sp. & ssp. listed]
http://www.metafro.be/Members/Cesa/Cesapublafr19.pdf/base_view
23. Koçak,A.Ö. & M.Kemal, 2007, Report on the Temporary Results of the Lepidopteran List of Africa Continent based upon the Databank of the Cesa. stand 27.7.2007 [totally 18385 sp. & ssp. listed]
http://www.metafro.be/Members/Cesa/Cesapublafr20.pdf/base_view
24. Koçak,A.Ö. & M.Kemal, 2006, Notes on the nomenclature of some species group taxa in the genus Euproctis (s.l.) (Lepidoptera, Lymantriidae) [in Turkish]. Cent. ent. Stud., Misc. Pap. 102-103: 13-14.
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35. Seven,S.1997, Afrika'dan bir Lycaenidae türünün nomenklatürü hakkında (Lepidoptera). *Cent. ent.Stud., Misc. Pap.* 48: 1-2, 1 harita.
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42. Koçak,A.Ö. & M.Kemal, 2007, Replacement names for some Microlepidoptera (Lepidoptera). *Centr. ent. Stud., Misc. Pap.* 105: 5-7
43. Koçak,A.Ö. & M.Kemal, 2007, Report on the Temporary Evaluations on the Lepidoptera of some African states described by the various lepidopterists based upon the Databank of the Cesa. 1- Democratic Republic of Congo (Zaire) Cesa Publ. on African Lepid. 21: 1-59, 10 Tab. http://www.metafro.be/Members/Cesa/Cesapublafr121.pdf/base_view
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45. Koçak,A.Ö. & M.Kemal, 2007, Report on the Temporary Evaluations on the Lepidoptera of some African states described by the various lepidopterists based upon the Databank of the Cesa. 3- Cameroon. Cesa Publ. on African Lepid. 23: 1-48, 9 Tab. http://www.metafro.be/Members/Cesa/Cesapublafr123.pdf/base_view

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Correspondence: Prof. Dr. Ahmet O.Kocak cesa_tr@yahoo.com.tr
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